YOUTH leaders around the world organized the Global Climate Strike, with an estimated 7.6 million people participating worldwide. Here in San Gorgonio Chapter, Sierra Club members joined in solidarity with local youth leaders at strikes and climate events in Redlands, San Bernardino, Temecula, and Fontana.

Sadly, here in the Inland Empire, we have yet to see our elected officials take the Climate Emergency seriously. Suburban sprawl projects are in the works in areas already at risk for water shortages, traffic congestion, and long commutes. A project for 45,000 homes in Eastvale has begun in Ontario, over 11,000 single-family homes and 8,790 multi-family units have been approved as part of a 4,000 acre project which includes 14+ million square feet of industrial development.

Local leaders must be held accountable to require sustainable building practices, such as no natural gas, solar panels on every roof and parking lot, and electric local transit options. Industrial development must come with local jobs for these new households to prevent long commutes. Sustainable water solutions, such as stormwater capture and native plant landscaping, must be included. These two cities in the most densely populated areas have the opportunity to make this infill housing sustainable with good local jobs to prevent long commutes. Leapfrog developments into our foothills, mountains and deserts present another problem, with no nearby jobs, destruction of habitat, and additional greenhouse gas emissions. These must be stopped.

There is hope! Melanie Fyda, a student at the University of Redlands writes of a partnership with Esri to gift a tree for planting to every elementary school student in the district. As she wrote, “Localized conservation efforts are a great way to tackle environmental issues on a local scale and allow people to create positive change.” It is imperative, however, to move beyond the charitable acts and special programs of conservation and make the demand that our local governments center the Climate Crisis instead of pushing business as usual. In response to Sierra Club California’s resolution declaring a Climate Emergency, the San Gorgonio Chapter Executive Committee has established the Climate Emergency Ad-Hoc Committee to focus on the steps necessary to motivate our communities to shift priorities.

The downloadable booklet by Jane Morton, published in Australia by Darebin Climate Action Now, Making the Case for Emergency Climate Action, states: Messages calling for action by government have been found to receive more support than those calling for individual action. In one study, people who were less certain that climate change is a serious threat were found to be unresponsive to messages calling for individual action but more supportive of an active climate policy by government.

However, counting on elected officials to challenge the vested interests of their campaign donors and business leaders by taking the Climate Emergency seriously is not a strategy that has been working.

“We need leaders to step up, but they must hear a clear, strong emergency message coming from all sides before they will be willing to lead the public on emergency action,” writes Jane Morton.

The goal of the San Gorgonio Chapter Climate Emergency Ad-Hoc Committee is to partner with groups, communities to shift priorities.

Heads Up!
This will be our last print version of the Palm and Pine. To stay updated, be sure to get your Online Palm and Pine by subscribing here: https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/publications/newsletters
Winter is rapidly approaching early this year and we’re hearing our last General Meeting on October 17th. Our speaker is Dr. Hugh Bialecki, DMD who will get us up to date on the Nestlé water “Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water’ removal from our San Bernardino National Forest and the action from our California State Water Resources Control Board. He will also give an update on the Church of the Woods proposed project that will impact mountain traffic circulation, biological impacts on the threatened and endangered species, bulldozing 300,000 cubic yards of earth by removing all vegetation.

Dr. Bialecki and four other local citizens have spearheaded the opposition to an expired Special Use Permit from the S.B.N.F. that enabled Nestlé to continually divert water from Strawberry Creek that is sold and bottled as “Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water.” He is the president of Save Our Forest Association (S.O.F.A.) - our mountain top neighbors. December will bring the tallying of the ExCom election and then our annual “Holiday Gathering” for the ExCom. It’s a wonderful evening together with our “significant others” gathering in a local restaurant for a relaxed time. It’s also a time I give Certificates of Appreciation to volunteers who have given “above and beyond” of their time and talents.

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

R U following us? R U connected to Sierra Club
San Gorgonio chapter on social media?

Make sure you “like” us here on Facebook and help us increase our reach:
https://www.facebook.com/sierrclubsangorgonio2/
Follow us on Twitter and retweet and share our posts there:
@scsangorgonio

Check out our Instagram, and don’t miss anything by following our story in pictures: scsangorgonio

Our Climate Emergency . . . Continued from Page 1

organizations and community leaders in a Climate Emergency Coalition to initiate a process throughout the Inland Empire to declare a climate emergency. In cities across the United States, including Los Angeles, Davis, Richmond, Oakland, Ojai, Petaluma, and others, councils have taken the first step to declare a climate emergency. Typical resolutions include setting up a process to develop an action plan and report back to the council within three to six months. Some areas have already begun implementing policies and allocating resources with both the urgency and scope that the emergency demands. For instance, Andy Shrader, Director of Environmental Affairs, Water Policy & Sustainability for LA Councilmember Paul Koretz, shared a presentation at the Sierra Club Conservation Committee Meeting in September, featuring programs such as City Blitz, Eco Districts, The Cool Block, Cool City Challenge, and the Jobs Cabinet which is part of L.A.s Green New Deal 2019 Sustainability Plan.

Save the Date: Join us for a special conference call/presentation by Andy Shrader to the San Gorgonio Chapter on Tuesday, November 5th at 6 pm before the monthly chapter meeting.

This past summer, we saw a record-number days of unhealthful ozone levels and with our neighbors throughout the Inland Empire experiencing fire evacuations, our local governments must be proactive in developing resilience efforts and sustainable, compact communities with public transit investment and a restoration of natural vegetation and plants.

Any development that increases carbon emissions, pollutants, or builds new infrastructure based upon fossil fuel dependency must be revisited and should only proceed with mitigation, sustainability, and drawing down on greenhouse gas emissions. We have to act, plan and build as if a disaster has occurred. A Climate Emergency Declaration can help move people to readily support rationing or regulation of essential services and make them more willing to direct all available resources to the shared task of overcoming the crisis.

Folks cannot do that if they do not know there is a crisis at hand.

In the Friday for Futures campaign, millions of students and youth are demanding that we act with continued strike actions every week. Those of us committed to Sierra Club’s mission of exploring, enjoying and protecting the planet must act every day. The actions we can take include making the call for government action that people will respond to.

If you haven’t already, please join this campaign by visiting https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/inlandempireclimateemergency.

Once you’ve signed up, share on Twitter, Facebook, and by email with your friends, family and neighbors to change the local conversation. The future is counting on us.
Mark Your Calendars For November’s Chapter Program:
“Healing Mental Health During Outings – A Native American Perspective”

In honor of Native American Heritage month, the San Gorgonio Chapter is pleased to partner with Indian Health Inc. This presentation will focus on how to enjoy outings through healing and mental health practices. We will explore together some best practices brought to you by experts and leaders in the community from Indian Health Inc. We invite you to enjoy, explore and protect the planet together in partnership with our local native communities any time we pursue an outing. Hope to see you for our program!

Meeting Details

When
Tuesday, November 5th • 7:30 PM •

Presented By
Indian Health Inc.

Where
San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane
Redlands
(California St. exit off 10 Fwy)

Yosemite! There is Magic in That Name

By: Margaret Meyncke
Member, Santa Margarita Group

The Sierra Club logo still has a picture of Half Dome and a sequoia tree to remind us of our origins. My husband, John and I decided a volunteer experience for one week at the Sierra Club in Yosemite National Park (YNP) would be a great way to spend our anniversary, so we selected a week in August.

It didn’t hurt that our daughter works inside the park and we could visit her as well.

We entered YNP on a Saturday from the eastern gate on Tioga Road after travelling up Historic Highway 395 past Lone Pine, Bishop, and Mammoth. What a view! The eastern Sierras are magnificent with Mt. Whitney at 14,505 feet. It is the tallest mountain in the contiguous United States! We stopped at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge to say hello to our daughter, then continued on past Tanaya Lake, Olmstead Point, and into the valley to search for our Sierra Club volunteer tent-camping site.

The valley is shockingly beautiful. Huge cliffs of granite, beautiful waterfalls, and meadow vistas kept us busy sight-seeing. We located our tent-camping location in Lower Pines which was spacious, clean, and beautiful beyond words. We even enjoyed a small visitor, a black bear, climbing a tree near our tent looking for apples.

After setting up our tent and introducing ourselves to the Yosemite Conservancy volunteers next to us, we proceeded to ride our bikes to the Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (YCHC). It was a short ride – maybe only seven minutes!

On Friday, the last day of our one-week commitment, we set up for the evening program. These programs were offered free to the public throughout the summer on Fridays and Saturdays. We were thrilled to experience a night with children’s author and illustrator, Steven Riley. Excellent good fun!

Finally, we entered the building and met Dr. Bonnie J. Gisel, a historian serving as curator for the last 18 years, who gave us a tour and history of Sierra Club’s “Home in the Valley.” We learned that Ansel Adams was the first curator in 1919 when the building was moved to its current location. We were honored to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the building’s current location (1919 to 2019) and were invited to make a birthday card. The building has a wonderful library with historical exhibits, environmental books for all ages, and a children’s corner as well. It welcomes visitors from all over the world and provides a quiet place to research and read.

Our job, as Sierra Club volunteers, was to meet and greet those visitors and welcome them to Sierra Club’s “Home in the Valley.” We answered questions about the building, Yosemite Valley, John Muir, and Sierra Club. It was a delightful experience with lots of opportunity to read, discuss, and interact with the public.

On Friday, the last day of our one-week commitment, we set up for the evening program. These programs are offered free to the public throughout the summer on Fridays and Saturdays. We were thrilled to experience a night with children’s author and illustrator, Steven Riley. Excellent good fun!

We loved this volunteer experience so much that we’ve already signed up for next year. If you are interested in more information, feel free to contact me (m.meyncke@gmail.com), or check out the Sierra Club link: https://www.sierraclub.org/yosemite-heritage-center/volunteer#
T he efforts of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club to protect our local environment are overseen by a small group of elected Executive Committee members – four of whom are listed on the Chapter Ballot shown to the right. There are only four candidates, for four positions, which means that “everyone wins” as long as one voter casts a ballot with a check mark next to each candidate’s name. Please don’t assume that someone else is going to cast that ballot – that one voter might be you! And you don’t have to cut up your Palm and Pine, you can go online to the Chapter’s website and vote there. Also, if you are a member of the Los Serranos, Tahquitz, Mountains, Mojave, Big Bear, or Santa Margarita Groups you can vote in your Group’s election there as well. The members of our Chapter and Group Executive Committees are underpaid (never paid) and under-appreciated. This is your chance to let them know that you recognize and value their efforts by checking the boxes next to their names and casting your ballot.

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
Mail in the printed ballot (below) or vote electronically at https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
Please Vote for 4 or Fewer
☐ Ladd Seeksins
☐ Allen Hernandez
☐ Gilda Gularte
☐ Kim Floyd

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot
Please Vote for 4 or Fewer
☐ Ladd Seeksins
☐ Allen Hernandez
☐ Gilda Gularte
☐ Kim Floyd

Mail your ballot(s) to: Sierra Club P.O. Box 651, Blue Jay, Ca. 92317

A Frenetic Fall Follows the Summer—But we keep smiling!

The long, hot summer appears to be behind us—we make no assumptions, however—and the Santa Margarita Group (SMG) now hunkers down for fall—more elegantly known as Autumn. We anticipate it will bring cooler temperatures to the IE—again, no assumptions—more conducive to walks and hikes in nature. The Fall is also the start of our general meetings programming, kicked off strikingly by our September 12th speaker, Ms. Lesley Gregory, on our local earthquake faults. (Oops. Pun alert!) Other speakers are scheduled as follows: October 10, Alden Hough on permaculture; November 14, Brook Sarson on rain water harvesting, and December 12, Karen Doyle on saving the wolves. (For more details on speakers and topics, readers will get monthly email blasts or may contact us using the information provided at the end of this piece.) Members of the Santa Margarita Group enthusiastically took part in the nation-wide climate change day on September 20th. The local protest took place at the Temecula City Hall, where we were joined by other activist groups. One of our newer members, Shaul Rosen-Rager, has a particular interest in climate change, hoping to found a local chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby. How do we keep our butterflies and bees from extinction? Feed them! Our members had the opportunity to buy plants that would help them in that cause at our Native Plant Sale on October 5th. The site was the home of expert botanist Gordon Pratt in Anza, California. Dr. Pratt grows plants particularly suited to that purpose and makes them available annually. Our participation aided him in preparing and selling them, and we enjoyed lunch and music as a perç—in addition to receiving some of the profits, a win-win situation.

Our activities with the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve suffered a setback as the result of the recent Tenaja Fire which burned almost 2,000 acres in the foothills west of Murrieta early in September. It took out the bandstand at the Plateau but left the Visitor Center intact. Importantly, much of the wildlife habitat was saved, but the Plateau is closed to visitors indefinitely. Consequently, the annual Family Wildlife Day scheduled for November 2nd, a usual tabling opportunity for our Group, is cancelled this year. A long-standing interest of the SMG has been the promotion and coordination across cities of the Murrieta Creek Regional Trail (MCRT). In reality, this is a series of trails along the creek connecting Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar and Lake Elsinore, primarily for walking, running and biking—as yet incomplete. (A full history of the region and this project can be found via a link on the City of Murrieta’s website.) Gary Oddi, Chair of the SMG’s Trails Committee, reports that Lake Elsinore has received grant money to extend the trails within its limits. The Wildomar connection will be via the Flood Control channel from Corydon Street to Sunrise. Still pending is the Washington St. connection from Temecula to Murrieta.

The SMG’s Outreach Committee has several irons in the fire already this year. A visit is planned for October 19th to Sky Mountain Institute in Escondido to follow our permaculture speaker on the 10th. The first Sierra Sunday will be on November 10th in Lake Elsinore. We’ll meet at the levee, behind Storm Stadium, at 11 am for a walk with an avian expert. The group will have lunch at Vincenzo’s Olive Garden afterwards. (For more info and to sign up, see the contact information provided at the end.) Our Winter Party will be held on Sunday, December 14th at Meadowview Club House at 3:00. Details will be shared at our monthly meetings and via email blasts. And we are getting a jump on planning for our annual Earth Day Fair, to be held on Saturday April 4, 2020, from 11:00 to 4:00 at Vail Headquarters.

Our Hikes Committee, chaired by Bob Audibert, continues to solicit new members, particularly those who will train to become leaders. The Sierra Club provides opportunities for the

Continued on Page 9 > > >
A Quick Reminder!

If you are a Sierra Club member, please . . .

However, if you are not a member of the Sierra Club, joining is an easy thing to do! Just turn to page 12 of this newsletter, complete and mail in the Application Form with your payment, or go to our website to join at: https://www.sierraclub.org

Group Executive Committee Election Ballots and Ballot Instructions for 2019

Voting may be done by printed ballot or online. PRINTED BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS are as follows: Print your name and address and sign your name on the outside of the envelope so that the ballot can be verified. If two ballots from a joint membership are enclosed, please print and sign for both. Mail the ballots to the address specified for your Group.

BALLOTS (Printed or Online) must be received by NOVEMBER 22, 2019 excepting Santa Margarita Group which must be received by NOVEMBER 13.

Los Serranos Group Ballot

Mail in the printed ballot (below) or vote electronically at https://sangorgiosi2.sierraclub.org

For additional information about online voting please see the Chapter Exam Election information elsewhere in this issue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Los Serranos Group Ballot</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please Vote for 3 or Fewer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Elliott</td>
<td>Brian Elliott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffery Wirthal</td>
<td>Jeffery Wirthal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Rush</td>
<td>Mark Rush</td>
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(Total Ballots) 24 (24 Ballots - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to: Gary Carlson, 2124 Woodside Ln, Chico Hills, Ca. 91703

Tahquitz Group Ballot

Mail in the printed ballot (below) or vote electronically at https://sangorgiosi2.sierraclub.org

For additional information about online voting please see the Chapter Exam Election information elsewhere in this issue.

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<tr>
<th>Tahquitz Group Ballot</th>
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<tr>
<td>Please Vote for 3 or Fewer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jono Hildner</td>
<td>Jono Hildner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ali Mundy</td>
<td>Ali Mundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Floyd</td>
<td>Kim Floyd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Total Ballots) 12 (12 Ballots - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to: Tahquitz Group Sierra Club, P.O. Box 4914, Palm Springs, Ca. 92261

Mountains Group Ballot

Mail in the printed ballot (below) or vote electronically at https://sangorgiosi2.sierraclub.org

For additional information about online voting please see the Chapter Exam Election information elsewhere in this issue.

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<tr>
<th>Mountains Group Ballot</th>
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<tr>
<td>Please Vote for 2 or Fewer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debby Macllister</td>
<td>Debby Macllister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Del Ross-Risher</td>
<td>Chris Del Ross-Risher</td>
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</table>

(Total Ballots) 12 (12 Ballots - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 651, Blue Jay, Ca. 92317

Mojave Group Ballot

Mail in the printed ballot (below) or vote electronically at https://sangorgiosi2.sierraclub.org

For additional information about online voting please see the Chapter Exam Election information elsewhere in this issue.

<table>
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<th>Mojave Group Ballot</th>
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<tr>
<td>Please Vote for 3 or Fewer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Wiley</td>
<td>Carol Wiley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vesna Lazic Polovin</td>
<td>Vesna Lazic Polovin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quentin Lake</td>
<td>Quentin Lake</td>
</tr>
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(Total Ballots) 3 (3 Ballots - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to: Mojave Group, 17109-0 Bear Valley Rd, P.O. Box 8237, Victorville, Ca. 92392-8852

Big Bear Group Ballot

Mail in the printed ballot (below) or vote electronically at https://sangorgiosi2.sierraclub.org

For additional information about online voting please see the Chapter Exam Election information elsewhere in this issue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Big Bear Group Ballot</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Please Vote for 4 or Fewer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Kesler</td>
<td>Ellen Kesler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherry Noone</td>
<td>Sherry Noone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marvin Cir</td>
<td>Marvin Cir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Michelson</td>
<td>Peter Michelson</td>
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(Total Ballots) 8 (8 Ballots - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to: Big Bear Group, P.O. Box 3048, Big Bear Lake, Ca. 92315

Santa Margarita Group Ballot

Mail in the printed ballot (below) or vote electronically at https://sangorgiosi2.sierraclub.org

For additional information about online voting please see the Chapter Exam Election information elsewhere in this issue.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Santa Margarita Group Ballot</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Please Vote for 4 or Fewer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam Nelson</td>
<td>Pam Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teri Biancandi</td>
<td>Teri Biancandi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caren Hanson</td>
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<td>Shaau Rosen-Rager</td>
<td>Shaau Rosen-Rager</td>
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(Total Ballots) 12 (12 Ballots - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to: Michael Moncrieff, 22497 Dial Dr., Temecula, Ca. 92592-6942
we was titled an epic poem many centuries ago. In this case, however, make that “Paradise Valley Lost”; or for those who remember Joni Mitchell, this time it appears that Paradise won’t be paved. On August 21, the Riverside County Planning Commission, at its sixth hearing on the proposed Paradise Valley Specific Plan, voted 4-1 to recommend denial of the project to the Board of Supervisors. Score one for conservation.

Glorious Land Company proposed “Paradise Valley” as a new town of about 8,500 homes and more than 1 million square feet of commercial development miles from nowhere sandwiched between Joshua Tree National Park and the Mecca Hills Wilderness well east of the Coachella Valley. It’s not over until the Board of Supervisors votes on the project and officially rejects it, but it is a huge step forward that the Planning Commission recommended denial of the project, citing these major problems with it:

• Inconsistency with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP).
• Lack of adequate ingress and egress to the project site for use in emergencies.
• The project benefits would not outweigh the project impacts.
• Inadequate affordable housing.
• Lack of clarity and certainty as to the availability of electric power.

These are all points that the Sierra Club and other members of the Coalition to Save Shavers Valley (the geographic name of the area where the Paradise Valley project was proposed), including social justice organizations from the eastern Coachella Valley and an array of other environmental organizations, made at the previous hearings and in writing. The compelling testimony from so many was heard this time.

Thank you to the many Sierra Club members who wrote letters in response to past Palm and Pine articles and Action Alerts and/or attended one of the hearings. To help ensure that the Board of Supervisors denies the project, it would be very helpful for members to email the Riverside County Supervisors with a simple email message such as, “Please follow the recommendation of the Planning Commission and DENY the proposed Paradise Valley Specific Plan on the southern boundary of Joshua Tree National Park. For all the reasons cited by the Planning Commission, this project should not be allowed to go forward.”

The email addresses for the Supervisors are as follows: district1@rivco.org (Supervisor Kevin Jeffries) district2@rivco.org (Supervisor Karen Spiegel) district3@rivco.org (Supervisor Chuck Washington) district4@rivco.org (Supervisor Manuel Perez) district5@rivco.org (Supervisor Jeff Hewitt)

We look forward to reporting favorable results from the Board meeting, which is expected to occur in October or November. Even then it still won’t be over. Ultimately, we need to work with conservation agencies and organizations to bend every effort to acquiring this property so that it will be permanently protected as part of the Multiple Species Reserve System established by the CVMSHCP.
Join us!

Committee, headed by Teri Biancardi, is organizing a SMER Science Day for

September 9th San Clemente Beach Trail Hike — Photos by Christina Torres

threethree New York City Central Parks or 26 Disneyland. The Superior Court ruled in the environmental community’s favor in June 2018 on several issues, but lost the very important Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions issue. On May 20, 2019, our Earthjustice attorneys, who are also representing the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice and Coalition for Clean Air, filed their opening brief to appeal the Superior Courts decision solely as it relates to the faulty GHG analysis. The city and the project developer, Highland Fairview, has filed a cross-appeal of the Superior Court’s decision and were recently granted an extension to an unspecified date.

Villages of Lakeview (VOL): This master planned residential community with its 8,725 dwelling units development on the south edge of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, was approved by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors this past spring. A coalition of environmental groups represented by the Center for Biological Diversity has challenged this project and its environmental findings. A hearing on the merits of the lawsuit was postponed and will be scheduled sometime in the future.

Donations Needed: Your donations are essential to our litigation against the Villages of Lakeview, the World Logistics Center as well as other projects in our area. Please make checks payable to “Sierra Club” with a notation for WLC and/or VOL or undesignated. Please send to: Sierra Club—Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. We sincerely appreciate and thank all of you who have taken time to donate to the litigation fund! We appreciate your generous donations.

Palm and Pine

Moreno Valley Group

By Ann Turner McKibben, Secretary

The chapter will stop producing and mailing paper copies of the Palm and Pine starting January 2020, but you can get an online version of the Palm and Pine, which includes our Moreno Valley Group news, by subscribing at the following link: https://sangorgonio2.sieraclub.org/publications/newsletters Please sign up so you can continue to follow us!

The Moreno Valley Group plans to have an information table at the November 16th RivCo Recycles Day at the Department of Waste Resources Moreno Valley at 14310 Frederick Street. Please send us an email at movalleygroup@yahoo.com if you would like to join other members and volunteer at our table. We will be sharing information about recycling and reusable products to reduce our dependence on plastics.

Here is some updated information on projects we are following:

**Gilmans Springs Road (GSR):** This roadway connects Moreno Valley to the San Jacinto/Hemet area and Riverside County is currently spending major money to upgrade GSR at this time, to make it safer for those who will use it when they shutdown portions of SR-60 through the Badlands to add a truck lane. Gilmans Springs Road is mainly a two lane road and the County is trying to obtain funding to make even larger improvements. While traveling GSR you can enjoy driving through portions of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA), along Mystic Lake (the 10,000 acre Davis Unit), to the south and the disjointed open space land on the north (the 9,500 acre Potrero Unit). Within these areas endangered/ threatened species as well as others are protected under the Riverside County Multi-Species Plan and they use and survive on all of the important lands. However, they may need to cross Gilmans Springs Road to have access to both habitat lands areas. As of this writing Riverside County had agreed to meet with the Sierra Club and other environmental groups in the coming months, to discuss their planned improvements to GSR to make sure they allow for safe animal crossings/ connectivity,

Santa Margarita Group...from Page 4

training of outings leaders often. The Political Committee, chaired by Elena Garcia, continues to monitor the proposed LEAPS project, which we fear will compromise the ecology of Lake Elsinore. Briefly, it would use water from the Garcia, continues to monitor the proposed LEAPS project, which we fear would compromise the ecology of Lake Elsinore. Briefly, it would use water from the

**Moreno Valley General Plan Update:** In the coming months the City of Moreno Valley will begin the process of updating its current general plan and land use map.

This update could have critical impacts on our city and even your neighborhood. If there is vacant land anywhere near you, it is possible the city will propose to change the land use from increasing housing density to more warehouse development zones. It is highly recommended that you monitor and participate in this review and speak up about what you want in your community. If you would like to be added to their list to take part in this process and add your concerns and comments, please send your email address to all of the following: MV Community Development Director (Richard Sandzimier, richardsa@moval.org), the city Planning Official (Patty Nevins, pattyn@moval.org) and Moreno Valley City Clerk (Pat Jacquez-Naes, CityClerk@moval.org).

**World Logistics Center (WLC):** The 40.6 sq ft World Logistic Center as well as other development projects in our area. Please make checks payable to “Sierra Club” with a notation for WLC and/or VOL or undesignated. Please send to: Sierra Club—Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. We sincerely appreciate and thank all of you who have taken time to donate to the litigation fund! We appreciate your generous donations.

Contact information:

Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/santamargaritagroup

Website
http://www.sierraclubsmg.org/

Chairperson (Pam Nelson)
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Remember... This is our last hard copy newsletter. We’re going digital starting January 2020.
Ladd and Gail Seekins will present a two-part program at the December 3 chapter meeting. In the first part, they will discuss historic Ukraine, from the founding of Kiev in the 10th Century up to the current war. They will illustrate their presentation with the photographs they took while travelling in Ukraine this past August and September. The second part of the presentation will take up the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The Seekins toured Chernobyl and the exclusion zone. They will attempt to draw some conclusions on the dangers of nuclear power, which has been offered as a replacement for fossil fuels to combat climate change.

The Seekins toured Ukraine by car for nearly four weeks, visiting Kiev, Lviv, Kolomiya, Vinnytsya, Uman, Odessa, the Danube Delta and Chernihiv as well as Chernobyl. Side trips included the Mukacheve Castle and Ivanovo-Frankivsk. Their photographs will include the Ukraine’s most significant historic sites. Part of the program will take up the revolutions of 1991 and 2014. An improperly conducted test caused an uncontrolled chain reaction in Chernobyl Reactor Four on April 26, 1986. A superheated steam explosion and a nuclear core fire released clouds of radioactive materials which were eventually carried over much of Europe. Eventual deaths due to exposure may reach 9,000 to 16,000 according to some models.

Chernobyl Reactors One, Two and Three, the same design as Reactor Four, continued to operate after the disaster. The last one ceased operations in 2000, nine years after Ukraine broke away from the Soviet Union. The site also includes uncompleted Reactors Five and Six. Between 2010 and 2016, a permanent containment structure was built on rails next to Reactor Four at a cost of approximately one billion dollars. Designed to slide over the quickly built “sarcophagus” over the reactor, the new steel containment was large enough to reach 9,000 to 16,000 according to some models. Chernobyl Reactors One, Two and Three, are to be permanently stored robotically. The radioactive core and surrounding ruins, along with the radioactive parts of Reactors One, Two and Three, are to be permanently stored in structures yet to be built.

The Seekins visited the public area near the reactor site and the ruins of the abandoned city of Pripyat, two kilometers from the reactor, and an abandoned village in the 30-kilometer Exclusion Zone. All residents living in the Exclusion Zone were evacuated immediately after the reactor explosion, leaving all their possessions behind except for money and legal documents. Looters later stripped the cities and villages of anything of value, leaving devastation in their wake. Much of the looted goods were sold in town markets to people who did not know about the radiation contamination.